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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Please substitute the enclosed sheets 2/6 and 6/6, each labeled "Replacement Sheet", for the corresponding sheets presently in the case.

Fig. 2 (on sheet 2/6) delete reference numeral "44" and replace it with reference numeral "42" to designate the threaded outer portion of the antenna mast screw 12c. The associated lead line has not been changed.

Fig. 8 (on sheet 6/6) add reference numeral 14 and its associated lead line designating the cover.

REMARKS

The specification and drawings have been amended to correct all known minor errors and provide clarity without adding new matter.

Claims 1 – 6, 11 and 14 – 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Du et al., (US 6,809,686) in view of Fuhrmann et al., (US 2002/0057792). Du et al. is cited as disclosing a fastening structure for an antenna module assembly, comprising: a cover 10, a gasket inner seal (see column 3, line 5-6), a circuit board 80 including at least one antenna element 60, 20, and a base 120, wherein: the gasket inner seal is placed over the circuit board, wherein the gasket inner seal and circuit board are intermediately located between the cover 10 and the base 120 (see column 2, line 63-68 and column 3, line 1-5).

The applicant has carefully reviewed the Du et al. reference and respectfully disagrees with this characterization. Although Du et al. discloses the use of several of the basic components recited in applicant's claim 1, Du does not illustrate or describe the specifics of how the cover and base plate are interconnected other than in a very general statement that the cover may be formed to create an environmental seal against the base plate, isolating the antenna elements and circuitry from water and other contaminant infiltration. Application of a sealing adhesive and/or a gasket (not shown) may aid the environmental seal. See column 3, lines 2-6. Du et al. does not show how or where a gasket would be used to "aid the environmental seal". It certainly does not suggest, directly or inferentially, that a gasket should be placed over the circuit board. Inasmuch as only a very limited exploded view is provided in Du et al., no useful teaching as to the assembled structural arrangement of the cover, gasket/seal, circuit board and base can be deduced. Fuhrmann discloses a system of beveled snap-tabs employed to interconnect outer housing parts of a mobile telephone, but does not disclose

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or suggest the structural arrangement specifically claimed in the present invention.

To expedite the examination of this application, the applicant has amended Claim 1, the sole independent claim, to more clearly delineate the present invention from Du et al. and Fuhrmann et al., as well as the remainder of the art of record. Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to require that the base and cover define opposed surface features which selectively extend therefrom about the parameters thereof to compressively engage the gasket inner seal to effect a peripheral water-tight interconnection therebetween and to simultaneously resiliently urge the circuit board into a predetermined design location within a cavity formed by the cover and base. It is respectfully submitted that none of the art of record teaches or suggests this arrangement.

Dependent claims 2, 3-6, 11 and 15-16 are separately characterized as obviated by other teachings of Du et al.. However, the applicant respectfully submits that the forgoing amendment of claim 1, from which all of these claims depend, directly or indirectly, obviates these further bases of rejection.

Claims 7-10 and 12-13 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Du et al. and Fuhrmann et al. in view of Scott et al. (US 6,331,838). Although Scott discloses a mast-type antenna element, it also fails to teach or suggest the invention as now claimed.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of the claims based upon Du et al. and the secondary references be reconsidered and withdrawn in view of the amendments and remarks herein, and that the claims be allowed.

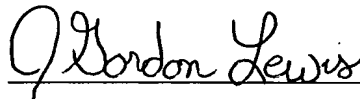
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An Information Disclosure Statement reflecting documents cited in a corresponding European patent application accompanies this Amendment. The applicant has reviewed the newly cited references and submits that none of them, alone or in combination with the references already of record, anticipates or obviates the claims as presently amended.

It is believed that, in view of the amendments and remarks herein, that all grounds of rejection of the claims have been addressed and overcome, and that all claims are in condition for allowance. If it would further prosecution of this application, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 50-0831.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "J. Gordon Lewis", is written over a horizontal line.

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Enclosures:

IDS and Petition with references

Replacement Sheets 2/6 and 6/6